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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH

and

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

of the

Halstead Rural District

For the Year 1951

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by

Dr. J. S. RANSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD
A.M.I.S.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Officer.

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Halstead Rural District Council

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Report on the
PUBLIC HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT
for the year 1951

By DR. J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit, through you, to the Council this report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1951.

Once again the number of cases of infectious disease notified has been low and there has been no noteworthy outbreak.

As mentioned in the report for 1950, the District is still awaiting the inception of the Mains Water Scheme and various Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes. This delay has caused serious consideration as to the best methods of supplying temporary facilities, especially with regard to water supplies where water is obtained with difficulty from deep bore holes.

Reconstruction of old houses has continued during the year. The standard of work is excellent and in all instances the houses so reconstructed have been adequately supplied with water and drainage.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

					Halstead R.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres)					77,089	
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ...					17,060	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)						
according to the Rate Books					5,906	
Rateable Value					£62,800	
Sum represented by a penny rate					£256 10. 8.	
Live Births						
Legitimate:—		Total	Male	Female		
		216	102	114		
Illegitimate:—		10	7	3		
Still Births						
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population					13.2	15.5
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)					17.8	0.36
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate) ...					219	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population ...					12.8	12.5
(Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.74)					9.5	
Deaths of infants under one year of age ...					2.	
Death rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births)					8.8	29.6
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					9.3	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					26	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...					1	

Deaths at Various Age Groups during 1951 (Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year	—	2
1 and under 2 years	—	1
2 and under 5 years	1	—
5 and under 15 years	—	1
15 and under 25 years	3	3
25 and under 35 years	—	1
35 and under 45 years	—	1
45 and under 55 years	5	5
55 and under 65 years	18	8
65 and under 75 years	32	20
75 years and upwards	85	38
Totals	144	80

2. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1951.

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Dead
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Infectious Jaundice ...	1	—	—
Measles ...	81	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	13	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	109	—	1
Dysentery ...	2	—	—
Totals ...	214	—	1

Tuberculosis—Cases Notified during 1951:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	—	—	1
10 and under 15 years	1	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years	1	—	—	—
20 and under 25 years	—	1	—	—
25 and under 35 years	2	2	—	1
35 and under 45 years	2	—	—	—
45 and under 55 years	2	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	2	—	—	1
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	10	3	—	3

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary ...	Male	1
	Female	2
Non-Pulmonary ...	Male	0
	Female	0
	Total	3

Food Poisoning Notifications 1

3. HOUSING

During the year 53 Council Houses have been built, and six bungalows for old people were in course of construction at Castle Hedingham. These latter are the first to be built by the Council.

As there are over 100 Council Houses occupied at the present time by one or two persons the policy of re-housing these people in bungalows and freeing the three bedroomed houses for large families is most desirable. To induce these people to accept the tenancies of bungalows, the rents must be reasonable and the bungalows desirable and sited near the centres of villages.

This Council's policy of taking action to ensure that houses unfit and vacated by families selected for the tenancies of Council Houses, shall be rendered fit or demolished, has been carried on during the year with the result that 36 houses have been reconstructed. This, together with other houses reconstructed during recent years, has entirely altered the general housing standard of the District. All the houses so re-constructed have been provided with drainage to tanks and soakaways. There has been some dispute as to whether it is possible in a clay subsoil in this way to dispose of sewage. The careful siting of the soakaways has proved that this can be possible for single houses and groups of two or three houses.

During the year 13 houses condemned or derelict have been demolished and there remain 43 that should be demolished. It is important that the Council should take steps to secure their demolition, as nothing detracts more from the amenities of a parish than the unsightliness of such houses.

Since the cessation of hostilities, the demand for houses has not only enhanced the value of any house that may become untenanted, but has also ensured that the reconstruction of almost any cottage can be made to be a paying proposition. The result has been that many properties have been re-constructed, to the necessary standard as required by the Ministry. Special vigilance is required and the policy of the Council should be not to relax their standards but to continue to insist that nothing less than re-construction to the approved standard will be acceptable for recognition.

4. WATER

The question of water supply remains the same. The comprehensive scheme still awaiting inauguration will ultimately serve the demands of the parishes. In the meantime, there is in some parishes scarcity of water, water raised from borewells with difficulty, and water with such a high iron content that doubtful supplies from surface springs are used in its place. As it may be two years or longer before the mains supply water from borewells, the Council have considered placing power heads to the deep wells to ensure the pumping of water other than by hard manual labour.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

The Ambulance Services and Laboratory facilities remained the same as at the end of 1950.

In conclusion may I thank the Members of the Committee and the Staff of the Council for their unfailing help during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your sincere servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. B. Ranson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report on the
**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HALSTEAD
RURAL DISTRICT**
for the year 1951

By HAROLD NIELD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Officer

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE, HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of this District for the year 1951, my fifth year of office under the Council.

The report is mainly statistical, and it includes details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Department. The careful study and appreciation of reliable statistics facilitates effective and balanced progress, and does enable duties to be carried out with impartiality and economy.

The vast sphere of activity in the prevention of disease and the promotion of physical and mental fitness, in which this and other Local Sanitary Authorities have a particularly important part to play, and the concept of "health" as being something much more than the mere absence of recognisable disease or infirmity, which demands not only that we shall live, but also that full measures should be taken to enable us to live a fuller and safer life, may not always be fully appreciated.

The astounding achievements in the last hundred years by sanitation or "environmental hygiene," and the introduction of new drugs and insecticides during the past ten years, have revolutionised the whole approach to environmental health and sanitation. Many epidemic and infectious diseases have been almost eliminated, others made rare, and certain death rates startlingly reduced. These old problems are no longer the main concern of the Public Health and Sanitary Services.

No attempt had been made until 1944 to obtain any measure of the incidence of illnesses, except with regard to certain notifiable diseases which comprise only a small fraction of illnesses. Even to-day, the rise and fall and the prevalence of illnesses and physical and mental fitness, and their variation according to environmental conditions, can only be judged by incomplete field surveys carried out at national level.

The District may be benefitted most effectively and economically by basing activities upon a rational appreciation of the exact nature and extent of the modern problems of public health and sanitation as revealed by careful local surveys and reliable statistics obtained therefrom.

1. STAFF.

Sanitary Officer

HAROLD NIELD,
A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.,I., M.S.I.A.,
Incorporated Sanitary Engineer.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

WILLIAM L. C. PROUD,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

JOHN TURNER,
M.S.I.A. (To 31.8.51).

Sanitary Assistant

BRIAN E. COLEMAN. (To 22.8.51).

Clerk Typist

MISS HILDA M. TAYLOR (To 18.4.51).
MISS EVELYN K. ALDRED
(From 12.6.51 to 29.9.51)
MISS MARY A. BECKWITH
(From 22.10.51)

2. FOOD.

(a) General.

On the whole the conditions under which foods were prepared and stored were reasonably satisfactory. Duties in connection with the supervision of food supplies had to be restricted on account of other urgent duties.

The co-operation of the Ministry of Food Local Executive Officer in notifying to the Sanitary Department details of licences issued by him under the "Self-Suppliers—Pigs Scheme," and details of applications for Catering Licences, was again appreciated. This enabled the Sanitary Department to examine all pigs slaughtered locally, and ensured that premises intended for use as catering establishments or food shops complied with sanitary requirements.

It is proposed to carry out a comprehensive "clean food campaign" throughout the District as soon as the Council's Byelaws "for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air," are in operation. It is then hoped that certain premises which fall short of present day requirements, especially regarding the protection of unwrapped food, will be improved.

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by the Sanitary Department regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	12	11
Fish Fryers	2	2
Food Preparing Premises (Registered)	15	133
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	2
General Provision Shops	66	64
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	32	24
Meat Shops	16	133
Restaurants and Cafes	10	10
Slaughterhouses	8	131
Street Vendors	—	12
Public Houses and Inns	73	49
Totals	212	571

"Clean Food Campaign" visits	30
Food poisoning investigations	15
Miscellaneous food inspections	24
Food preparing premises improved	15

(b) **Unsound Food.**

No cases of unsound food being exposed for sale were found, and it was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated very satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Bacon	24 lbs.
Fish	14 lbs.
Mutton	12 lbs.
Pork	366 lbs.
Tinned Food	283 lbs.

Total 699 lbs.

(c) **Post-mortem Inspection of Animals.**

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	Nil	Nil	3	5	3	141
No. Inspected ...	Nil	Nil	3	5	3	90
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.4
Tuberculosis only						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.5

Licensed Slaughtermen 5.

(d) **Milk and Dairies.**

The condition of milk premises other than farms and the distribution of milk throughout the District were on the whole very satisfactory. Inspections were made as follows:—

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises ...	2	18
Registered Distributors of Milk ...	5	19
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	13
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk ...	3	13
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	3	7
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk ...	4	7
Totals	22	77

36 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and gave the following results which show the high standard of the quality of milk sold in the District:—

Grade of Milk		Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	...	4	2	2
Accredited	...	—	—	—
Pasteurised	...	18	18	—
Undesignated	...	14	11	3
Totals		36	31	5

(e) Ice Cream.

18 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and gave the following results:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	16
II	2
III	—
IV	—
Total	18

The high standard of quality of the ice cream sold in the District is worthy of special mention.

3. WATER.

The District still eagerly awaits the inception of the mains water scheme. Details of the existing sources of water supply with the population and properties served are given in the table on pages 14 and 15.

None of the existing supplies were treated by chlorination or softening, although chlorinating apparatus was available for use as necessary at the Council's Earls Colne Undertaking.

Samples of all mains water supplies were submitted for laboratory examination quarterly as a routine procedure.

11% of the population of the District was served by individual public and private bore wells and deep wells deriving water from deep seated chalk, approximately between 150 and 300 feet deep.

50% of the population of the District depended upon unsatisfactory public and private shallow gravel wells up to approximately 80 feet deep, surface springs, streams, ponds and rainwater.

Many of the bore wells and deep wells yielded water of excessive hardness (between 300 and 500 parts per million) and iron content. In many cases treatment for hardness and iron content was not carried out and householders preferred to use the softer or more palatable, though polluted and dangerous, shallow supplies.

The shallow supplies which derive their water from gravel beds above and below the Boulder Clay had yields which varied more or less directly with the rainfall and were readily affected by drought. Most of these shallow supplies were unprotected against contamination. The quality of their water was unsatisfactory and the quantity insufficient and variable. 44% of the shallow supplies were known to be polluted and 18% to be below standard. In times of drought many failed completely, which then necessitated the Council stationing and replenishing water tanks in various parts of the District.

In several parts of the District many householders, including Council house tenants, had to fetch water considerable distances to their homes, a quarter of a mile each way being by no means uncommon.

During the year the following work was carried out by the Sanitary Department:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	... ..	205
(b) Premises connected to water mains following informal action	... ..	35
(c) Wells improved following informal action	... ..	5
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination	... ..	115

Details of these are given in the following table:—

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	32	23	9
Private Water Mains	39	36	3
Public Wells, etc.	2	2	—
Private Wells, etc.	14	13	1
Totals	87	74	13

Seven of the unsatisfactory samples from public water mains were from the Council's Golden Meadow Camp Undertaking. The source of contamination was determined, and action is to be taken to make the supply satisfactory. The other two unsatisfactory samples from public water mains were from the Council's Castle Hedingham Undertaking. The source of contamination of this water was also determined and remedial action taken resulted in the supply being made satisfactory.

The private water mains supply from which the three unsatisfactory samples were taken was also subsequently made satisfactory.

4. HOUSING

(a) General

Housing lies at the very heart of all public health and sanitary work, and these duties again took priority in the work of the Sanitary Department. Concentration on the inspection, repair and reconditioning of dwelling houses in this District is very essential.

A rosy picture of housing showing the number of new houses built is often given (resembling the Savings Campaigns in war years when little regard was made for withdrawals), without also giving the debit side of the picture, i.e. the deterioration of existing houses, increasing numbers of which are progressively getting beyond repair, possibly at as fast a rate as new houses are built.

The shortage of building labour and materials, and high cost of repairs in relation to rents of houses, making the execution of even essential repairs apart from the necessary sanitary improvements uneconomic, was naturally a very big obstacle in the way of improving housing conditions and will continue to be so. The carrying out of even minor weatherproofing repairs to many cottages in the District, often absorbed 15 to 20 years' rent, during which time further expenditure inevitably will have to be incurred.

Certain property owners came to the conclusion that the owning of sub-standard property was more of a liability than an asset, and the practice occurred of either abandoning such property or of conveying it free of cost or for a nominal sum to tenants, impecunious persons and others having no knowledge of their responsibilities under the Housing Acts. In addition, beneficiaries under wills refused to accept sub-standard property left to them, realising that it was likely to be a financial liability.

Sible Hedingham ...	793	2390	—	—	(Ridgewell Airfield)	146 119	642 440	528	1908
Stambourne ...	109	328	—	—	Gibson's Estate	—	—	109	328
Sturmer ...	100	266	7	20	Rippers' Limited	—	—	93	246
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	60	153	—	—	Land Settlement	21	77	39	76
Toppesfield --	191	520	—	—	Association Ltd.	—	—	191	520
Twinstead ...	64	167	—	—	—	—	—	64	167
Wickham St. Paul ...	87	238	—	—	—	—	—	87	238
TOTALS									
For area included in District Water Scheme	4471	12524 (100%)	326	937 (7.5%)		528	1934 (15.5%)	3617	9653 (77%)
Bures Hamlet ...	129	411	93	312	—	—	—	36	99
Colne Engaine ...	208	628	105	300	—	—	—	103	328
Earls Colne ...	630	1949	554	1731	Messrs. R. Hunt & Co. Ltd.	50	145	26	73
Helions Bumpstead	150	414	134	390	—	—	—	15	19
Steeple Bumpstead	270	764	1	5	—	—	—	55	143
White Colne ...	119	370	65	218	—	—	—	54	152
TOTAL									
For area excluded from District Water Scheme	1506	4536 (100%)	1167	3577 (78.9%)		50	145 .3 2%	289	814 (17.9%)
GRAND TOTALS									
For whole District	5977	17060 (100%)	1493	4514 (26.4%)		578	2079 (12.2%)	3906	10467 (61.4%)

The valuable contribution to the alleviation of the housing problem which it is possible to make by the repair and reconditioning of dwellings may not always be fully appreciated. If thoroughly and completely carried out, reconditioning provides modernised houses for half the expenditure of labour and materials required for the same quantity of new house building. It also brings back into use houses which otherwise would remain unoccupied, it forestalls dilapidations which would otherwise cause properties to lapse into disuse, and by no means of least importance, it preserves buildings which are typical of the traditional work of the District and are an important part of the beauties of the countryside. Perhaps most important in many cases, it obviates the need for the building of new houses at present day high costs, which is a very appreciable consideration when the charge upon the community in annual subsidies in respect of new Council Houses is £35 12s. 0d. (£39 14s. 0d. in respect of houses for the agricultural population).

The considerable number of houses which have been thoroughly reconditioned in this District has resulted directly from the policy of co-ordinating the re-housing of applicants from unsatisfactory dwellings with action under the Housing Acts to ensure the reconditioning of the unsatisfactory dwellings on vacation. These modernised dwellings are in many cases smaller than new houses and can be let at economic and unsubsidised rents below those of new houses.

The numbers of dwellings which during the past five years have been either repaired to a satisfactory standard or reconditioned and modernised up to a standard comparable with new Council Houses is worthy of special mention, particularly when compared with the number of Council Houses erected and the number of dwellings demolished.

Year	Houses Reconditioned or Repaired	Houses fully Reconditioned	New Council Houses Erected	Houses Demolished
1947	111	23	26	Nil
1948	154	43	63	6
1949	286	54	61	5
1950	219	49	54	12
1951	234	36	53	13
Totals ...	1004	205	257	36

It is to be regretted that even more houses were not repaired or reconditioned during the year. I feel quite sure that this would have been possible had there been no administrative and staffing difficulties, and had "Maximum Selling Prices" in respect of converted and reconditioned dwellings not been fixed.

Throughout the District there are still many cramped, low and worn-out cottages with all the depression of darkness, dampness, lack of air space and ventilation and absence of adequate facilities and amenities. It may not be generally realised that in this District only 37% of properties have W.C.'s, 74% sinks, 29% baths and 77% drainage.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the District has, however, been very considerably improved in recent years. While much has been accomplished, it is most essential that this work should continue with unabated effort.

The comprehensive survey of all houses up to £20 rateable value throughout the District to determine the District's exact housing conditions

and needs was continued, and as much progress was made thereon as circumstances permitted. The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Parish	Total houses to be surveyed	Houses Surveyed	Categories				
			1	2	3	4	5
Alphamstone ...	60	60	—	22	29	7	2
Ashen ...	75	75	—	—	40	19	16
Belchamp Otten ...	48	48	—	10	32	4	2
Belchamp St. Paul ...	119	119	—	30	60	4	25
Belchamp Walter ...	84	84	—	16	50	12	6
Birdbrook ...	123	123	3	4	56	35	25
Borley ...	36	36	—	8	14	11	3
Bulmer ...	169	169	—	44	90	31	4
Bures Hamlet ...	106	106	—	11	83	7	5
Castle Hedingham ...	260	260	28	46	99	54	33
Colne Engaine ...	168	168	20	79	52	12	5
Earls Colne ...	489	142	2	42	77	8	13
Foxearth ...	82	82	—	27	41	11	3
Gestingthorpe ...	119	119	—	6	72	30	11
Gosfield ...	181	181	39	85	29	24	4
Great Henny ...	42	42	—	2	22	14	4
Great Maplestead ...	74	66	7	22	29	—	8
Great Yeldham ...	182	182	17	85	38	20	22
Halstead Rural ...	234	234	41	14	102	18	59
Helions Bumpstead ...	119	101	7	10	36	22	26
Lamarsh ...	39	39	—	9	17	11	2
Liston ...	18	18	—	1	15	2	—
Little Henny ...	12	12	1	2	5	2	2
Little Maplestead ...	53	53	1	24	19	1	8
Little Yeldham ...	101	101	9	60	5	9	18
Middleton ...	33	33	—	2	17	9	5
Ovington ...	28	28	—	7	2	9	10
Pebmarsh ...	114	114	—	63	33	8	10
Pentlow ...	53	53	—	9	37	1	6
Ridgewell ...	130	130	—	38	32	29	31
Sible Hedingham ...	630	81	—	—	5	16	60
Stambourne ...	84	84	—	25	21	22	16
Steeple Bumpstead ...	216	40	—	—	4	7	29
Sturmer ...	85	85	3	35	12	18	17
Tilbury ...	54	54	—	15	12	11	16
Toppesfield ...	161	161	3	1	80	30	47
Twinstead ...	54	12	—	—	—	—	12
White Colne ...	96	96	—	12	54	24	6
Wickham St. Paul ...	80	80	—	16	29	18	17
Totals ...	4811	3671	181	882	1450	570	588
		(100%)	(4.9%)	(24.1%)	(39.5%)	(15.5%)	(16.0%)

Note.

- Category 1. Satisfactory in all respects.
- Category 2. With minor defects only.
- Category 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
- Category 4. Appropriate for reconditioning.
- Category 5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

(b) Housing Inspections.

(1) Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	929
(2) Houses fully surveyed and recorded	44
(3) Houses cursorily surveyed and recorded	2,178
(4) Investigations of Applications for Council house tenancies	13
(5) Inspections regarding re-conditioning	347
(6) Inspections regarding overcrowding	56

(c) Housing Notices.

(1) Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects	155
(2) Statutory Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	1
(3) Statutory Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring remedy of housing disrepair	nil
(4) Certificates as to state of repair granted (Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1933).	1

[Property owners responded very satisfactorily to informal procedure, requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses, and their co-operation was greatly appreciated]

(d) Unfit Houses—Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Houses Officially Represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	8
(2) Demolition Orders made	1
(3) Undertakings accepted (a) to repair or recondition	1
(b) not to use for human habitation	3
(4) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (December, 1951)	43
(5) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec., 1951)	49

(e) Housing Improvements.

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by the Sanitary Department	215
(2) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	6
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	1
(4) Houses repaired or reconditioned following statutory undertaking under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	12
(5) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	13

(f) Housing Improvement Grants.—Housing Act, 1949

Applications for Improvement Grants	2
Improvement Grants Recommended by Council	1
Improvement Grants Approved by Ministry of Health	Nil
Loans Made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	Nil

It would appear that the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to the reconditioning and improvement of dwellings by means of Improvement Grants are of little value in improving unsatisfactory housing conditions on account of the limit of expenditure imposed (£600 per dwelling) and also on account of the Ministry's apparent non-implementation of these provisions of the Act.

(g) **Housing Overcrowding.**

Overcrowded houses existing December, 1950	...	...	...	18
Overcrowded houses found during 1951	...	...	...	5
Overcrowded houses relieved 1951	...	...	...	4
Overcrowded houses existing December, 1951 (Including 5 Council houses)	...	...	...	19

(h) **Moveable Dwellings.**

Licensed Camping Grounds	...	...	...	1
Inspections of Camping Grounds	...	...	...	5
Licensed Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	16
Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	46

5. WORKPLACES.

Duties under the Factory Act, 1937 and the Shops Act, 1950 had to be somewhat neglected. On the whole the Factory and Shop premises in the District were fairly satisfactory, but many were not provided with sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences for the persons employed. Details of premises in the District and of inspections made by the Sanitary Department regarding cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors, sanitary conveniences, safety from fire, washing facilities, etc., are given in the following tables:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	18	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	69	21	—	—

Certificates of means of Escape in case of fire granted ... Nil

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total: ...	6	6	—	—	—

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—Making, etc., ...	3	—	—	—	—	—

Premises	No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ...	28	5
Shops ...	112	207
Workplaces ...	10	10
Schools ...	27	4

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... Nil

6. WASTE MATTERS.

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year a detailed comprehensive survey of the District was made by the Sanitary Department regarding the existing sewerage and sewage disposal facilities, and the need for, and the possibilities of providing, sewerage and sewage disposal schemes. Thereafter, the Council's Consulting Engineers carried out surveys and reported upon the communities for which public sewerage and sewage disposal schemes were practicable with the approximate estimated costs of such schemes.

Schemes for the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, and a joint scheme for the Parish of Bures Hamlet with Bures St. Mary (Melford Rural District Council) have been prepared, and a scheme for Colne Engaine is in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers. The following Parishes have been placed in order of priority as being in need of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future:—Greenstead Green (Halstead Rural), Foxearth, Belchamp St. Paul, Wickham St. Paul, Pebmarsh and Toppesfield. The following Parishes are also in need of such schemes:—Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Helions Bumpstead and Sturmer. Extensions to the existing schemes are needed at Earls Colne, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal or important additions to existing works were carried out during the year. Thirty-three inspections were made by the Sanitary Department of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

(b) Drainage.

Drainage duties came next to housing in order of priority in the work of the Sanitary Department, and much attention was devoted to the examination of plans, advisory meetings with architects and builders, etc., and to the supervision and testing of new drainage work in progress, in addition to the examination of many existing drainage systems which gave rise to nuisances. The considerable number of polluted and foul ditches throughout the District gave rise to many serious nuisances and were the cause of repeated complaints. Nearly a quarter of the properties in the District drain directly to ditches, apart from many sewage tanks which overflow into ditches. Many of these ditches have thereby become public sewers, which the Council are responsible for cleansing and maintaining. It is most essential that no new drainage works should be permitted to discharge foul liquids directly into ditches and thereby not only create or aggravate serious nuisances, but in many cases also incur the Council in unnecessary expenditure in the piping, cleansing and maintenance of sewer ditches.

There is no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), householders being left to make their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are given in the following table:—

Parish	Total Properties	Properties drained to :			Properties without drainage
		Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
Alphamstone ...	78	—	29	19	30
Ashen ...	89	—	25	32	32
Belchamp Otten ...	62	—	13	13	36
Belchamp St. Paul ...	141	—	29	35	77
Belchamp Walter ...	103	—	37	27	39
Birdbrook ...	151	16	43	47	45
Borley ...	42	—	12	1	29
Bulmer ...	196	—	53	34	109
Bures Hamlet ...	129	34	24	32	39
Castle Hedingham ...	328	223	26	39	40
Colne Engaine ...	208	46	76	50	36
Earls Colne ...	630	484	89	29	28
Foxearth ...	119	—	30	68	21
Gestingthorpe ...	160	—	32	58	70
Gosfield ...	198	20	115	59	4
Great Henny ...	62	—	16	12	34
Great Maplestead ...	114	—	59	28	27
Great Yeldham ...	228	20	58	90	60
Halstead Rural ...	271	86	111	54	20
Helions Bumpstead ...	150	9	60	50	31
Lamarsh ...	58	—	29	6	23
Liston ...	22	—	4	11	7
Little Henny ...	17	—	4	5	8
Little Maplestead ...	75	—	33	26	16
Little Yelham ...	116	—	78	12	26
Middleton ...	41	—	8	1	32
Ovington ...	30	—	3	12	15
Pebmarsh ...	148	11	47	65	25
Pentlow ...	67	—	22	21	24
Ridgewell ...	151	—	48	68	35
Sible Hedingham ...	793	500	82	158	53
Stambourne ...	109	—	33	44	32
Steeple Bumpstead ...	270	129	53	40	48
Sturmer ...	100	12	43	18	27
Tilbury-Juxta-Clare ...	60	—	21	25	14
Toppesfield ...	191	—	40	90	61
Twinstead ...	64	—	29	6	29
White Colne ...	119	36	37	24	22
Wickham St. Paul ...	87	—	12	27	48
Totals ...	5977	1626	1563	1436	1352
	(100%)	(27.2%)	(26.2%)	(24.0%)	(22.6%)

During the year a comprehensive survey of the District was made by the Sanitary Department regarding the existing drainage facilities of properties. The following work was also done:—

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	...	...	...	128
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	...	...	...	140
3. Drainage inspections	...	...	...	777
4. Inspections of ditches	...	...	...	49
5. Drainage smoke tests	...	...	...	149

As a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to public sewers	...	...	...	30
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	...	...	...	44
3. Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	25
4. Drains cleansed	...	...	...	6
5. Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	14

(c) Sanitary Fittings

There is a great need in the District for the conversion of privy and earth closets into water closets. Although activities for securing the abolition of privies and the conversion of conservancy closets into water closets were actively pursued again during the year, there are still 62% of properties in the District without water closets. Over 100 insanitary privies remain, and it is hoped that these will be at least converted into more sanitary earth closets at an early date, especially as this can be done at very little cost.

There is also a need in the District for sinks and baths. It may be hard to realise that 26% of properties are still without a sink and 71% without a bath. The position in households in Great Britain is 6% and 37% respectively.

Details of sanitary fittings of properties in the District are given in the following table:—

Parish	Total Properties	Properties with :					
		Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
		W.C's.	E.C's.	Privies	None		
Alphamstone ...	78	15	57	—	6	63	18
Ashen ...	89	9	75	—	5	58	14
Belchamp Otten ...	62	5	56	—	1	31	11
Belchamp St. Paul ...	141	8	122	5	6	87	21
Belchamp Walter ...	103	6	92	—	5	54	15
Birdrook ...	151	14	126	1	10	73	21
Borley ...	42	6	33	—	3	15	8
Bulmer ...	196	23	171	—	2	122	43
Bures Hamlet ...	129	25	95	—	9	98	31
Castle Hedingham ...	328	206	112	10	—	241	85
Colne Engaine ...	208	79	120	3	6	172	48
Earls Colne ...	630	471	124	18	17	514	316
Foxearth ...	119	25	94	—	—	79	28
Gestingthorpe ...	160	15	139	—	6	91	23
Gosfield ...	198	79	119	—	—	176	95
Great Henny ...	62	10	49	—	3	36	16
Great Maplestead ...	114	41	69	4	—	72	35
Great Yeldham ...	228	62	162	2	2	168	80
Halstead Rural ...	271	94	170	2	5	231	107
Helions Bumpstead ...	150	30	109	7	4	110	31
Lamarsh ...	58	27	30	—	1	45	26
Liston ...	22	4	15	3	—	14	5
Little Henny ...	17	5	10	1	1	9	5
Little Maplestead ...	75	26	48	1	—	63	21
Little Yeldham ...	116	51	60	2	3	83	47
Middleton ...	41	5	31	2	3	15	4
Ovington ...	30	2	26	—	2	15	2
Pebmarsh ...	148	32	110	2	4	119	49
Pentlow ...	67	10	52	2	3	47	11
Ridgewell ...	151	24	117	4	6	119	22
Sible Hedingham ...	793	528	240	22	3	708	274
Stambourne ...	109	20	83	4	2	77	31
Steeple Bumpstead ...	270	165	96	1	8	212	86
Sturmer ...	100	26	68	1	5	63	24
Tilbury-Juxta Clare ...	60	19	37	—	4	43	20
Toppesfield ...	191	24	149	10	8	125	33
Twinstead ...	64	18	43	2	1	41	25
White Colne ...	119	46	67	—	6	87	32
Wickham St. Paul ...	87	10	69	2	6	51	9
Totals ...	5977	2265	3445	111	156	4427	1772
	(100%)	(37.8%)	(57.6%)	(1.9%)	(2.7%)	(74.1%)	(29.6%)

During the year 242 inspections regarding sanitary conveniences were carried out, and as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department the following improvements were effected:—

1. Privy conversions	...	...	...	...	48
2. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	...	...	...	...	17
3. New sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	15

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal.

Public cleansing was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor. The Council possessed two refuse collecting vehicles and undertook the removal of house refuse at fortnightly intervals in the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and contracted for the removal of night soil and refuse in the Parish of Bures Hamlet. In the remaining Parishes, the Council removed tins and salvage at approximately monthly intervals. Refuse and tins were disposed of on refuse dumps at Bures (which was also used for night soil), Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne.

There was a serious lack of ash pits or regulation dustbins throughout the District even in Parishes where public scavenging was in operation, and at far too many properties including many of the Council's own houses, occupiers deposited refuse in nondescript uncovered receptacles which overflowed on to the ground and attracted pests.

Six inspections of refuse tips, and 49 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made, and as a result of action by the Sanitary Department 8 accumulations of refuse were removed.

7. PESTS.

The District continued to be comparatively free from vermin infestation. Only two premises, both Council houses, were found with bed bug infestations, and six premises with flea infestations. These premises were all satisfactorily disinfested. A total of 23 inspections were made by the Sanitary Department in connection with vermin.

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mice infestations in the District. 24 properties were found to have major rat infestations and 28 minor infestations. Eight hundred and eighty eight inspections were made regarding rat and mice infestation, and the Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year were:—

	Local Authority	TYPE OF PROPERTY			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other including Business & Industrial	
I. Properties in District	16	5848	447	356	6667
II. Properties inspected during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) Nil (b) 17	6 595	Nil 59	4 218	10 888
III. Properties found infested by rats.	Major 12 Minor 1	3 17	Nil 7	9 3	34 28
IV. Properties found seriously infested by mice.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
V. Infested properties treated.	13	16	Nil	11	40
VI. Notices served. (1) Treatment.	Nil	9	Nil	Nil	9
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	1	Nil	Nil	4	5
Total	1	9	Nil	4	14
VII. Cases in which default action was taken.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII. Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out					3

8. MISCELLANEOUS.

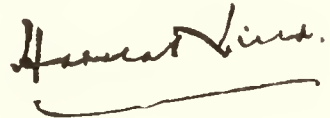
The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year:--

(a) Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	...	...	128
(b) Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	9
(c) Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	...	...	13
(d) Rivers Pollution (Prevention) Acts investigations	...	...	7
(e) Notifiable disease investigations	...	...	4
(f) Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	...	...	6
(g) Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings investigations	...	...	12
(h) Visits re miscellaneous sanitary matters	...	...	15

In conclusion may I express my appreciation to members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support during the year, and to all officers of the Council for their willing co-operation, and may I record my thanks to the members of my staff for their ready help and loyal co-operation in carrying out our very onerous yet unspectacular and often unpopular duties, for which more than ever under present day limitations and frustrations, the utmost tact, discretion and impartiality are so essential.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,



Sanitary Officer.

